

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

Before this Amendment, claims 1 – 11 and 13 – 29 were present for examination. Claims 1 – 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 29 are amended; claims 6, 10, 15, 16, and 18 – 28 are canceled; and new claims 31 – 33 are added. Therefore, claims 1 – 5, 7 – 9, 11, 13, 14, 17, 29, and 31 – 33 are present for examination, and claims 1, 11, and 29 are the independent claims.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 – 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited portions of Kimura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,913,078 (“Kimura”), in view of the cited portions of Passman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,636,256 (“Passman”). The Office Action rejected claims 3 – 5, 7 – 8, 10 – 11, 13 – 25, and 27 – 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura, in view of Passman, in further view of the cited portions of Clapper, U.S. Patent No. 6,023,241 (“Clapper”). The Office Action rejected the remainder of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Kimura, Passman, Clapper, the cited portions of Kubota et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,401,029 (“Kubota”), and Fernandez et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,697,103 (“Fernandez”). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration for the reasons that follow.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 11, and 29 are amended at least to more clearly recite use of location based telegraphy and monitoring to support network operations relating to telecommunications plant equipment. Dependent claims 2 – 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 17 are amended at least to maintain proper antecedent basis and to more clearly recite embodiments of the subject matter recited in amended claims 1, 11, and 29. Similarly, claims 31 – 33 are added at least to more clearly recite embodiments of the subject matter recited in amended claims 1, 11, and 29. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example, at ¶¶ [0052] – [0058]. As such, no new matter is added by these amendments, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

The Office Action rejected independent claims 1, 11, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over various combinations of Kimura, Passman, and Clapper. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the cited references, combined with the knowledge of those of ordinary skill in the art, must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection at least because the combinations of Kimura, Passman, Clapper, and ordinary knowledge in the art fails to teach or suggest all the recitations of claims 1, 11, and 29, as amended.

Specifically, Kimura, Passman, and Clapper cannot be relied upon to teach or suggest:

(1) “a plurality of telecommunications plant equipment, each telecommunications plant equipment being part of an access network and having: a first location sensor configured to provide a first location associated with the telecommunications plant equipment; a set of equipment characteristics comprising information about the telecommunications plant equipment relevant to servicing of the telecommunications plant equipment; a first network interface in operative communication with a network engineering center via a service network; and a first computer readable medium, the computer readable medium encoded with instructions executable by the microprocessor to communicate, to the network engineering center over the service network, the location and the set of equipment characteristics associated with the telecommunications plant equipment; and a portable technician device, comprising: a second location sensor configured to second provide a location associated with the portable technician device; a second network interface in operative communication with the network engineering center via the service network; and a second computer readable medium, the computer readable medium encoded with instructions executable by the microprocessor to: receive, from the network engineering center over the service network, an indication of a servicing need for one of the telecommunications plant equipment; receive, from the network engineering center over the service network, the first location and the set of equipment characteristics associated with the

one of the telecommunications plant equipment; and map a route to the one of the telecommunications plant equipment as a function of the second location and the first location associated with the one of the telecommunications plant equipment,” as recited in amended claim 1;

(2) “initiating a mapping function integrated into a portable device substantially upon leaving a first location, the mapping function being configured to log locations according to a location sensor; terminating the mapping function substantially upon arrival at a second location remote from the first location; generating a route map from the first location to the second location as a function of the locations logged according to the location sensor; capturing an object image of telecommunications plant equipment; receiving a third location defining a location of the telecommunications plant equipment; receiving a set of equipment characteristics comprising information about the telecommunications plant equipment relevant to servicing of the telecommunications plant equipment; associating the telecommunications plant equipment with the route map, the object image, and the third location,” as recited in amended claim 11; or

(3) “a central monitor remote from, and in operative communication with, a plurality of portable technician devices, wherein the central monitor is configured to receive an indication of a servicing need for one of a plurality of telecommunications plant equipment, each telecommunications plant equipment being associated with a location and a set of equipment characteristics comprising information about the telecommunications plant equipment relevant to servicing of the telecommunications plant equipment; and a dispatch module in operative communication with the central monitor and with a dispatcher, and configured to: receive an indication of an event occurrence, the event occurrence relating to a servicing need for one of the plurality of telecommunications plant equipment; and upon receiving the indication, automatically communicate the location and the set of equipment characteristics associated with the one of the telecommunications plant equipment to at least one of the portable technician devices for use in dispatching a response to the event occurrence,” as recited in amended claim 29.

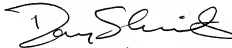
For at least these reasons, Kimura, Passman, and Clapper fail to teach or suggest the recitations of claims 1, 11, and 29. Further, the Office Action does not provide any teaching from other art or reason why this recitation would be within the knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the art. As such, the combined teachings of the art, as cited by the Office Action, have not been shown to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to independent claims 1, 11, and 29. Moreover, claims 2 – 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 17, and 31 – 33 are believed allowable at least for reasons of their dependence from allowable base claims. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the §103 rejections to all the claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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